

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 251 - HB 431**

February 5, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Increases the penalty for a violation of the Financial Responsibility law, from a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100 to a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 11 months 29 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500, when the offender was at fault for an accident resulting in bodily injury or death due to criminal negligence.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue – \$151,400**

**Increase Local Revenue – \$8,000**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Safety, there are approximately 500 such cases each year, and the average fine is \$75.
- The average fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$500. An increase in average fine of \$425 (\$500 - \$75).
- A 75 percent collection rate for such fines.
- The recurring increase in fine revenue is estimated to be \$159,375 (500 offenders x \$425 fine increase x 75.0%).
- Local courts retain a five percent commission. The recurring increase in local revenue is estimated to be \$7,969 (\$159,375 x 5.0%).
- The state retains the remaining 95 percent of fine revenue. The recurring increase in state revenue is estimated to be \$151,406 (\$159,375 x 95.0%).
- There will not be a significant increase in incarceration for such offenses.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. D. G.", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

**SB 251 - HB 431**

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jaw